

Message Text

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ORIGIN EPA-04

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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: OCON, SENV, TECH, JA, US

REF: (A) TOKYO 4507; (B) KUBO TO GREEN LETTER OF APRIL 10, 1973

SUBJ: THIRD US/ JAPAN CONFERENCE ONSEWAGE TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY

1. EAP GENERALLY PLEASED WITH AGENDA AND ITINERARY FOR PROPOSED CONFERENCE AS CONTAINED REF B. ONLY MJAOR RESERVATION AS TO SUBSTANCE CONCERNS EUTROPHICATION STUDY TO BE PRESENTED BY JAPANESE. EPA FEELS THAT IF THE ENGINEERING AND TREATMENT ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM ARE NOT THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PRESENTATION, THEN ANOTHER SUBJECT OR CASE STUDY EMPHASIZING ENGINEERING AND TREATMENT SHOULD BE SUBSTITUTED. MORE DETAILED RESPONSE ON AGENDA AND ITINERARY WILL FOLLOW BY LETTER.

2. WITH RESPECT TO TIMING OF CONFERENCE, EPA REQUESTS RESCHEDULING FOR MID- FEBRUARY. REASONS FOR REQUEST IS THAT EPA HAS NEVER HELD TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER SEMINAR OUTSIDE US AND WANTS INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE PRIOR TO PRESENTATION TO JAPANESE. EPA UNCLASSIFIED

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VALUES HIGHLY ITS SEWAGE TREATMENT EXCHANGE WITH JAPANESE AND ITS COLLABORATION WITH KUBO, AND DOES NOT WANT THE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER SEMINAR PRESENTED TO THE JAPANESE TO BE FLAWED IN THE WAY ANY FIRST EFFORT LIKELY TO BE, PARTICULARLY WHERE SUCH DIVERSE AUDIENCE EXPECTED AND WHERE LANGUAGE PROBLEM SO GREAT. EPA THEREFORE CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF CONDUCTING MORE LIMITED SEMINAR AS A TRIAL IN EUROPE IN FALL WHERE LANGUAGE AND TRANSLATION CONSIDERATIONS EXPECTED TO POSE SOMEWHAT FEWER PROBLEMS. IF EUROPE SEMINAR HELD, EPA WILL REQUEST THAT KUBO AND OTHER GOJ OFFICIALS BE INVITED TO ATTEND AND ASSIST IN EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDING MODIFICATIONS FOR PRESENTATION IN JAPAN. WITH TEXT EXPERIENCE AND CRITIQUE, THE MUNICIPAL DESIGN SEMINAR CAN THEN BE TAILORED TO JAPANESE INTERESTS AND NEEDS.

3. JAPANESE MAY PROPOSE HOLDING CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER, WITH MUNICIPAL DESIGN SEMINAR HELD SEPARATELY IN FEBRUARY, DUE TO LIMITED RESOURCES, EPA WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO MEET THIS ALTERNATIVE. FYI: EPA STRESSES THAT REQUEST FOR DELAY SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS ATTEMPT BY EPA TO DOWNGRADE US/ JAPAN SEWAGE TREATMENT EXCHANGE. RATHER, AS STATED PARA 2, EPA VALUES EXCHANGE AND HAS GREAT RESPECT FOR KUBO. IN POINT OF FACT, SUGGESTED MID- FEBRUARY PERIOD FOR CONFERENCE VIEWED BY EPA AS STILL TOO SOON FOR NEXT ROUND OF FORMAL EXCHANGES ON SEWAGE TREATMENT, BUT CHOSE SO THAT KUBO WOULD NOT BE BACED WITH PROBLEM OF HAVING TO CARRYOVER ALREADY- APPROPRIATED CONFERENCE FUNDS INTO NEXT JAPAN FISCAL YEAR. IF, HOWEVER, KUBO WOULD NOT BE INCONVENIENCED BY STILL FURTHER POSTPONEMENT, EPA WOULD PREFER CONFERENCE BE HELD IN MAY OR JUNE , 1974. EPA WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY' ADVICE ON THIS POINT. ROGERS

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